

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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R 130245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7001

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TSPA, XP, NZ

SUBJECT: TERMINATION PEACESAT PROJECT

1. NASA SUPPORT FOR PEACESAT SCHEDULED TERMINATE AUGUST 17. WE BELIEVE PEACESAT HAS BEEN VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL TOOL IN NZ AND THE PACIFIC AND IS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL USES SPACE TECHNOLOGY. EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT NASA SUPPORT BE CONTINUED.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND WE WOULD NOTE THAT NZ EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM INADEQUATELY STAFFED. PEACESAT TRANSMISSIONS HELP FILL SOME VERY LARGE GAPS IN PERSONNEL AND ABILITY AS WELL AS DIMINISHING REAL FEELING OF ACADEMIC ISOLATION. FAILURE CONTINUE PROGRAM WILL GENERALLY DECREASE AVAILABLE EXPERTISE AND IN SOME CASES ELIMINATE IT ENTIRELY.

3. PEACESAT AS EXAMPLE PEACEFUL USES TECHNOLOGY PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN NZ. TRANSMISSIONS REACH AUDIENCE THAT IS OFTEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT STATED US OBJECTIVES IN SPACE AND, EQUALLY, ONE THAT FEELS THAT FAR TOO MUCH MONEY IS DEVOTED TO SPACE FOR WRONG REASONS. TERMINATION OF NASA SUPPORT CAN ONLY REINFORCE THESE TENDENCIES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT CONVEY EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION TO NASA ASAP.

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